

An amended form of lines 9 and 10 of page 17, lines 1 and 2 of page 19, lines 17 - 24 of page 55 and lines 1 - 9 of page 56 is attached for the Examiner's convenience pursuant to new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1)(ii).

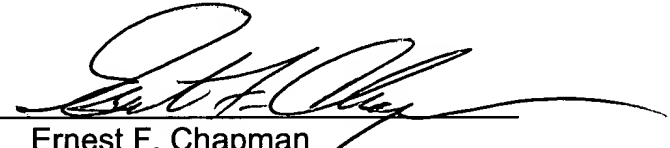
The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
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Reg. No. 25,961

Dated: April 27, 2001  
EFC/FPD/mld  
Enclosures

ENCLOSURE

## APPENDIX TO THE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 17, lines 9 and 10:

Figs. 9(a) to [9(c)] 9(e) are a series of graphs explaining dynamic range compression processing.

Page 19, lines 1 and 2:

Figs. 24(a) and [24(b)] 24(b) are views in which a scale is attached to the image.

Page 55, lines 17 through 24, through Page 56, lines 1 through 9 :

Herein, as shown in Fig. 9(A), when unsharp data Sus exhibit such characteristics that when it becomes less than level "La", G(Sus) increases, the density in the lower density region is regarded to be high, and image data Sorg shown in Fig. 9(B) are regarded as image data Stb which are subjected to dynamic range compression in the lower density region as shown in Fig. [8(C)] 9(C). Further, as shown in Fig. 9(D), when G(Sus) exhibits such characteristics that when unsharp data Sus become less than level "Lb", G(Sus) decreases, the density in the higher density region is regarded to be high and image data Sorg, shown in Fig. 9(B), are subjected to dynamic range compression in the higher density region as shown in Fig. 9(E). Herein, levels "La" and "Lb" are obtained employing the same determining method employed to determine standard values S1 and S2 during the setting of the aforementioned gradation processing conditions.